



GRAIN TRANSPORTATION REPORT

Agricultural Marketing Service
United States Department of Agriculture



FEBRUARY 1, 2000

Feb. 4	Ag Shipper Transportation Workshops	Fresno, CA	202-467-8380 (ph)
Feb. 3-6	American Corn Growers Association 8 th Annual Convention	Las Vegas, NV	918-488-1892 (fax) http://www.acga.org
Feb. 9-12	2000 Wheat Industry Conference & Exposition	Las Vegas, NV	202-547-7800 (ph)
Feb. 13-16	U.S. Grains Council 40 th Membership Meeting	Monterrey, CA	202-789-0789 (ph) 202-898-0522 (fax) jscofield@grains.org
Feb. 10-11	National Grain Trade Council/Transport., Elevator & Grain Merchants Assoc./North American Export Grain Assoc. Annual Mtg.	Phoenix, AZ	202-842-0400 (ph)
Feb. 16-18	Soyfoods 2000	Orlando, FL	800-882-8684 (ph)
Feb. 20-22	2000 Sorghum Conference	Corpus Christi, TX	806-749-3478 (ph) 806-749-9002 (fax) ngsp@sorghumgrowers.com
Feb. 20-24	World Congress of Young Farmers	Orlando, FL	630-323-1145 (ph) 630-323-6989 (fax) bhmgmt@aol.com
Feb. 23-26	The Intermodal Challenge: Freight Transportation Issues For The 21 st Century (Transportation Research Board)	Long Beach, CA	202-334-2934 (ph) 202-334-2003 (fax0) lkarson@nas.edu
Feb. 24-25	Agricultural Outlook Forum	Washington, DC	202-720-3050 (ph) agforum@oce.usda.gov
March 21-23	Food Safety Summit & Expo	Washington, DC	202-639-5995 (ph) arickard@nfpa-food.org

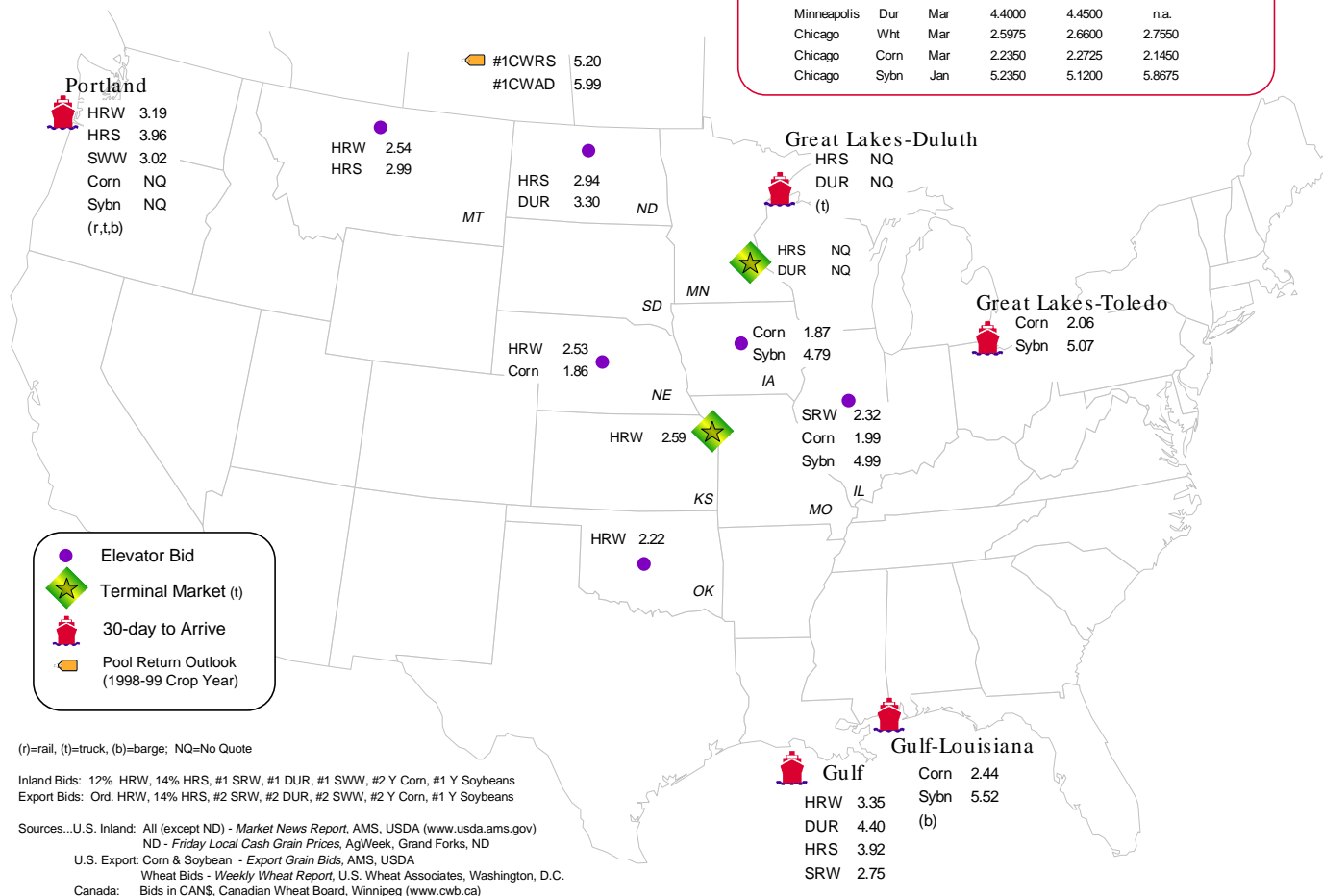
Our Apologies. *We regret the considerable delay in making available the Grain Transportation Report during recent weeks. Several factors, some of which were beyond our control, contributed to the delay. We thank you for your patience, and we will make every effort to resume publishing the report in a timely manner.*

Year-End Report. *Traditionally, we have not published the Grain Transportation Report during the week of the year-ending holiday season. However, at the request of several readers, we are now making the December 28, 1999, report available. It may be found under the December 1999 listing of reports.*

Report is prepared by Karl Hacker and Chambre' Malone, Transportation & Marketing, Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA (202) 690-1304. Report design by Kimberly Vachal, Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute, North Dakota State University. You can retrieve this document from our Automatic Fax System by using the handset on your fax machine and dialing (202) 690-1707. This report can be found on the Internet at www.ams.usda.gov/tmd/grain.htm. E-mail comments to GTR@usda.gov.

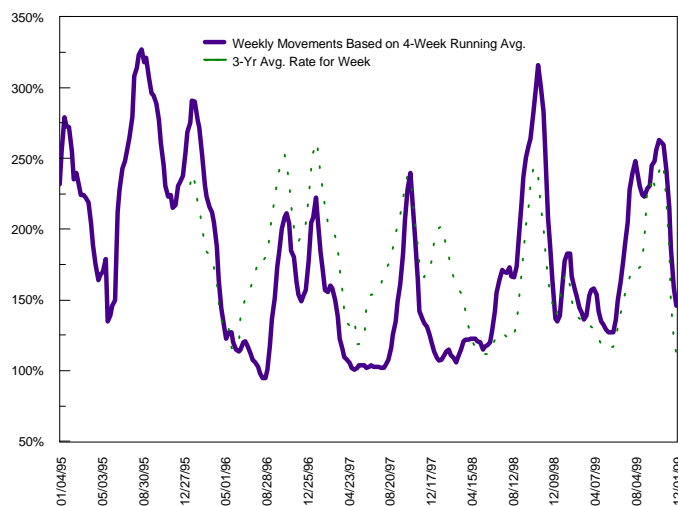
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Grain Bid Summary

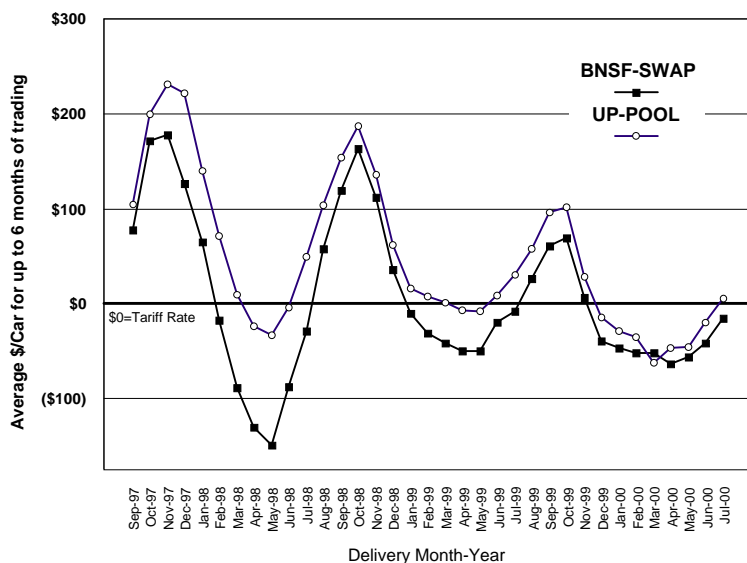


Spot Barge Rate - Illinois River

Index - Percent of Tariff Rate



Secondary Rail Market Bids



Rail Car 'Auction' Offerings				
Delivery for:	Feb-00		Apr-00	
	<u>Offered</u>	<u>% Sold</u>	<u>Offered</u>	<u>% Sold</u>
BNSF-COT	11,000	11%	11,999	0%
UP-GCAS	5,400	1%	0	0%
Source: Transportation & Marketing /AMS/USDA; www.bnsf.com; www.uprr.com				

Secondary Rail Car Market

Average Premium/Discount to Tariff, \$/Car - Last Week

	Delivery Period			
	Feb-00	Mar-00	Apr-00	May-00
BNSF-GF	\$(12)	\$(53)	\$(53)	\$(32)
UP-Pool	\$(2)	\$(9)	\$(30)	\$(30)

Source: T&M/AMS/USDA. Data from Atwood/ConAgra., Harvest States Co-op, James B. Joiner Co., Tradewest Brokerage Co.;

GF=Guaranteed Freight, GEEP=Guaranteed Eqpt. Exchange, Pool=Guaranteed Pool

note... bids listed are market INDICATORS only & are NOT guaranteed prices, missing value=No Bid Quoted

Railroad Car 'Auction' Results

Average Premium/Discount to Tariff, \$/Car - Last Auction

Delivery for:	Feb-00	Mar-00	Apr-00
COT/N. Grain	no bid	no bid	no bid
COT/S. Grain	no bid	no bid	no bid
GCAS/Region 2	no bid	no bid	no bid
GCAS/Region 4	no bid	no bid	no bid

Source: T&M/AMS/USDA. Data from www.bnsf.com, www.uprr.com,
(COT=Certificate of Transportation; GCAS=Grain Car Allocation System)**Southbound Barge Freight Nominal Values**

Index=Percent of Tariff, Based on 1976 Tariff Benchmark Rate

Week ended**	River/Region	Contract Period	Rate
1/21/00	Illinois River	twk	230
		Feb.	180*
		Mar.	170*
	St. Louis	twk	180*
		nwk	170*
		1/23, 1/30	165
	Ohio River	twk	165*
		nwk	165*
	Mid Miss	Apr-July	170

Southbound Barge Freight Spot Rates

	1/26/00	1/19/99	Feb. '00	Apr. '00
Twin Cities	nq	nq	0	210
Mid-Mississippi	nq	nq	0	180
Illinois River	276	190	193	169
St. Louis	166	168	157	145
Lower Ohio	158	162	154	147
Cairo-Memphis	155	161	147	136

Source: Transportation & Marketing /AMS/USDA
nq=no quote

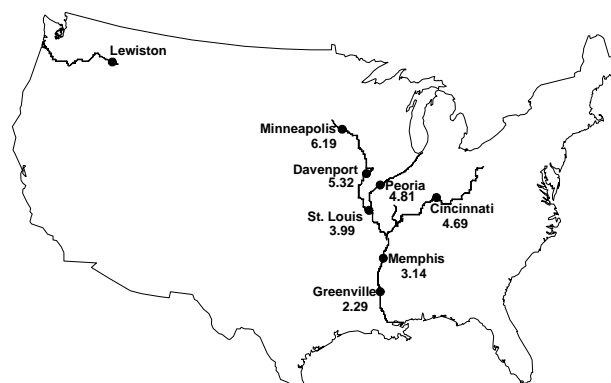
Summary Of Daily Barge Trades Reported To St. Louis Merchants Exchange.

twk=this week

nwk=next week

(*) percentage for bid rates, no trades available

(**) current data unavailable

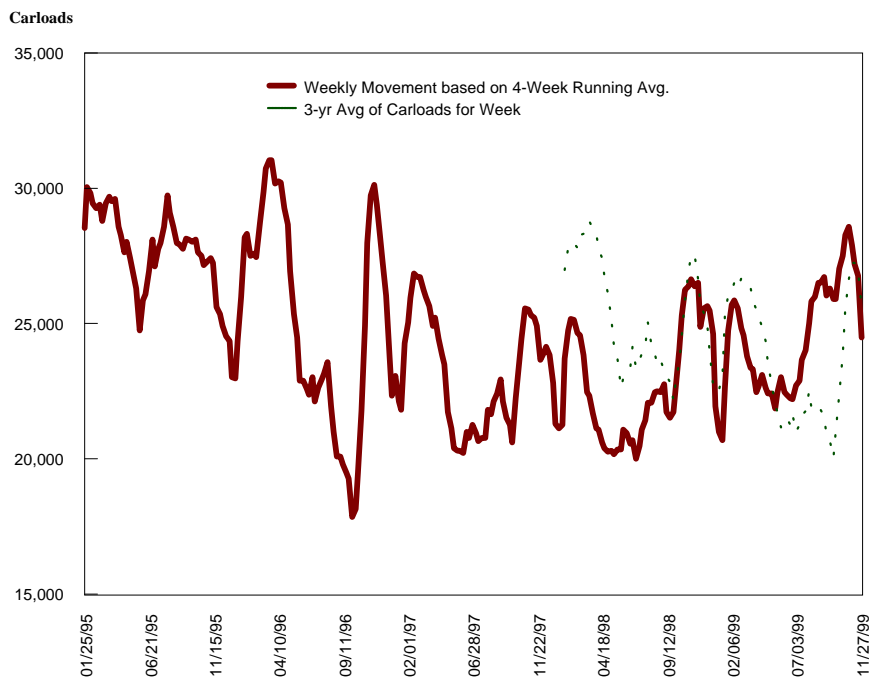
**Barge Benchmark Tariff Rates
Est. 1976 - 'Tariff No. 7'**

Grain Car Loadings for Class I Railroads

Class I Railroad Grain Car Loadings	
Week Ending:	Carloads
1/8/00	26,001
01/15/00	25,952
01/22/00	25,023
Year to Date - 2000	76,976
Year to Date - 1999	72,867
Total 1999	1,269,741

**1998 - 52 weeks

* 1997 - 53 weeks



Class I Rail Carrier Grain Car Bulletin

Carloads

Canoads									
	Conrail	CSXT	East		West			Canada	
			IC	NS	BNSF	KCS	UP	CN	CP
01/22/00	0	2,575	1,935	2,896	8,256	583	8,778	2,739	3,894
This Week Last Year	700	2,396	1,690	2,826	8,325	903	8,745	1,762	3,586
2000 YTD	0	9,065	5,388	9,190	27,042	1,970	24,321	8,304	10,236
1999 YTD	1,745	7,062	3,946	6,900	26,349	2,415	24,450	4,873	9,323
1999 Total	15,522	132,157	88,056	138,379	465,088	33,911	398,262	121,381	206,328
1998 Total	40,192	126,128	77,811	131,158	431,459	34,503	342,609	113,568	215,005

Source: Association of American Railroads

**1998 - 52 weeks

* 1997 - 53 weeks

Tariff Rail Rates for Unit Train Shipments

February 2000

Date Effective	Tariff Item	Commodity	Origin	Destination	Rate Per Car	Rate Per MT	Rate/Per Bushel*
01/03/00	45560	Wheat	Minneapolis, MN	Houston, TX	\$2,050	\$22.60	\$0.62
01/03/00	43521	Wheat	Minneapolis, MN	Portland, OR	\$3,877	\$42.74	\$1.16
01/03/00	46540	Wheat	Kansas City, MO	Houston, TX	\$1,550	\$17.09	\$0.47
01/03/00	43586	Wheat	Kansas City, MO	Portland, OR	\$4,133	\$45.56	\$1.24
01/03/00	43581	Wheat	Omaha, NE	Portland, OR	\$3,805	\$41.94	\$1.14
01/03/00	31040	Corn	Minneapolis, MN	Portland, OR	\$2,800	\$30.86	\$0.78
01/03/00	31035	Corn	Kansas City, MO	Portland, OR	\$2,600	\$28.66	\$0.73
01/03/00	31040	Corn	Omaha, NE	Portland, OR	\$2,415	\$26.62	\$0.68
01/03/00	61180	Soybean	Minneapolis, MN	Portland, OR	\$2,880	\$31.75	\$0.86
01/03/00	61180	Soybean	Omaha, NE	Portland, OR	\$2,815	\$31.03	\$0.84
05/01/98	61180	Soybean	Omaha, NE	Portland, OR	\$2,780	\$25.23	\$0.83

Source: www.bnsf.com

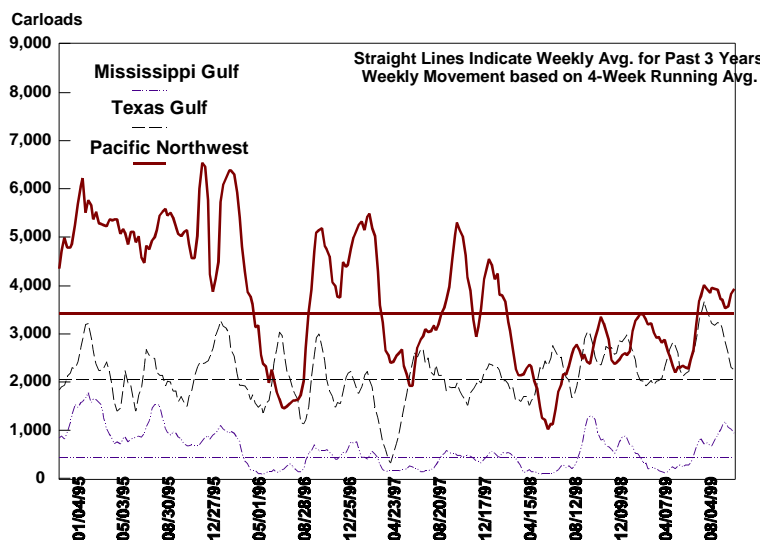
Approximate load per car = 100 tons: Corn 56 lbs/bu, Wheat & Soybeans 60 lbs/bu

Rail Deliveries to Port

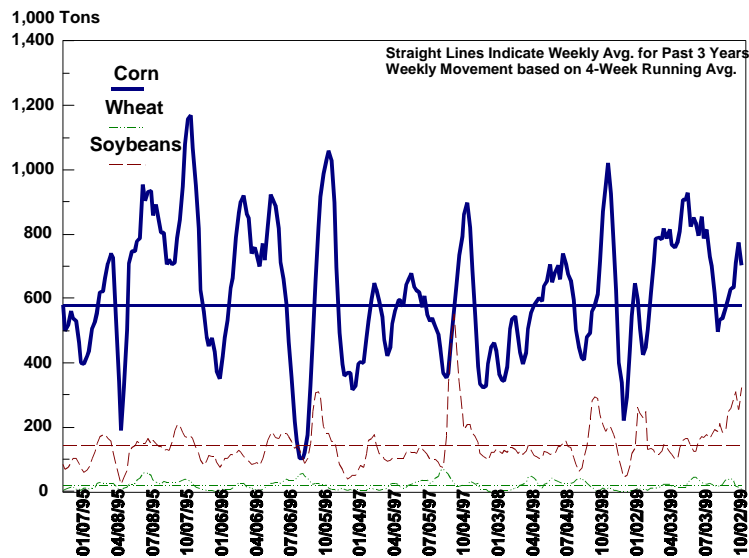
Carloads

	Mississippi Gulf	Texas Gulf	Pacific Northwest	Atlantic & East Gulf
Week Ending:				
12/15/99	564	1,545	2,328	650
12/22/99	1,008	2,566	3,384	261
12/29/99	460	1,435	2,645	65
01/05/00	494	1,634	2,235	62
01/12/00	810*	2,097	2,927*	18
01/19/00	954	1,753	4,160	870
YTD 2000	2,258*	5,484	9,322*	950
YTD 1999	2,046	8,324	7,350	971
Total 1998	23,844	115,321	138,461	12,505
Total 1997	20,152	93,265	195,953	9,147

Source: Transportation & Marketing/AMS/USDA

Rail Deliveries to Port

(*)Note: Revised Data

Barge Movements - Locks 27**Barge Grain Movements**

for week ending 1/22/00

	Corn	Wht	Sybn	Total
	1,000 Tons			
Mississippi River				
Rock Island, IL (L15)	0	0	0	0
Winfield, MO (L25)	12	0	2	14
Alton, IL (L26)	491	3	141	648
Granite City, IL (L27)	524	3	141	682
Illinois River (L8)	419	3	120	556
Ohio (L52)	98	11	34	163
Arkansas (L1)	0	8	4	13
2000 YTD	1,745	84	575	2,545
1999 YTD	793	158	191	1,362
Total 1999	31,001	2,401	8,674	45,134
Total 1998	31,226	2,420	8,866	45,625

Miss YTD: Calendar year totals include Miss/27, Ohio/52 and Ark/1.

Source: U.S. Army Corp of Engineers

U.S. Export Balances (1,000 Metric Tons)

	<i>HRW</i>	<i>SRW</i>	<i>HRS</i>	<u>Wheat</u> <i>SWW</i>	<i>DUR</i>	<i>All</i>	<u>Corn</u>	<u>Soybean</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Unshipped Exports-Crop Year</u>									
01/20/00	808	398	755	535	229	2,724	7,773	3,907	14,404
This Week Year Ago	1,469	199	825	490	198	3,180	8,125	3,759	15,064
<u>Cumulative Exports-Crop Year</u>									
99/00 YTD	7,709	2,818	3,617	2,617	670	17,430	19,709	13,003	50,142
98/99 YTD	7,063	1,321	4,451	3,947	578	17,360	17,562	17,713	52,635
97/98 Total	9,858	4,710	6,305	5,413	1,232	27,518	37,220	24,516	89,254
96/97 Total	7,387	3,645	7,864	6,105	963	25,965	44,476	24,501	94,942

Source: Foreign Agricultural Service YTD-Year-to-Date (www.fas.usda.gov) Crop Year:Wheat=5/31-6/01, Corn & Soybeans=9/01-8/31**Select U.S. Port Regions - Gain Inspections for Export - 1,000 Metric Tons**

	<u>Pacific Region</u>			<u>Mississippi Gulf</u>			<u>Texas Gulf</u>		
	<i>Wheat</i>	<i>Corn</i>	<i>Soybean</i>	<i>Wheat</i>	<i>Corn</i>	<i>Soybean</i>	<i>Wheat</i>	<i>Corn</i>	<i>Soybean</i>
01/27/00	189	292	0	99	801	475	138	0	36
2000 YTD	635	602	93	382	2,374	1,547	357	3	87
1999 YTD *	593	334	0	242	1,678	1,262	534	29	153
% of Last Year	6%	14%	14%	8%	8%	10%	5%	1%	6%
1998 Total	10,838	4,373	651	5,048	31,330	14,917	7,270	562	1,392

Source: Federal Grain Inspection Service * YTD-Year-to-Date (*98 = 53 week period)

Select Canadian Ports - Export Inspections*

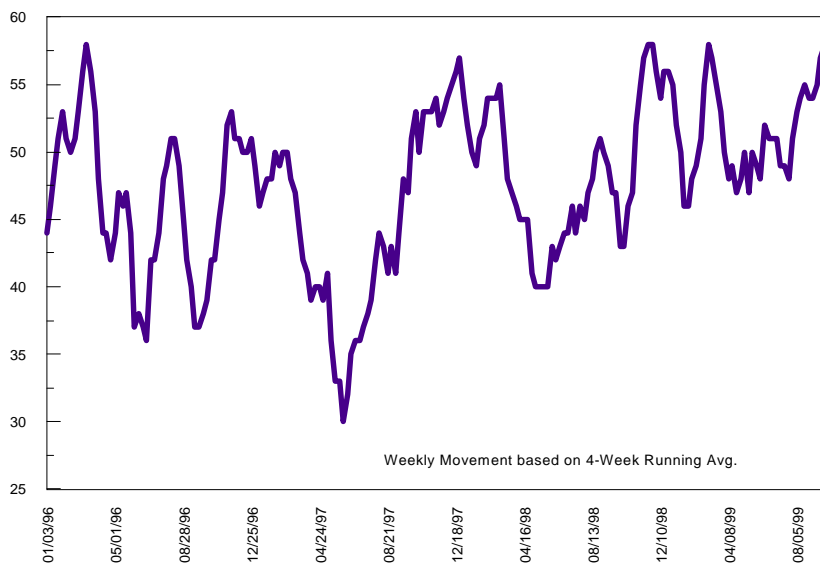
1,000 Metric Tons, Crop Year

	<u>Wheat</u>	<u>Durum</u>	<u>Barley</u>
Week Ended: 1/28/00			
Vancouver	2,421	482	272
Prince Rupert	1,520	3	58
Prairie Direct	420	171	107
Thunder Bay	468	193	165
St. Lawrence	1,633	899	0
1999 YTD Exports	6,462	1,748	683
1998 YTD Exports	4,994	1,470	437
% of Last Year	129%	119%	156%

Source: Canadian Grains Commission; *current data unavailable

YTD-Year-to-Date Crop Year 8/1-7/31

Vessels



**Gulf Region
Vessels Loaded
- Past 7 Days-**

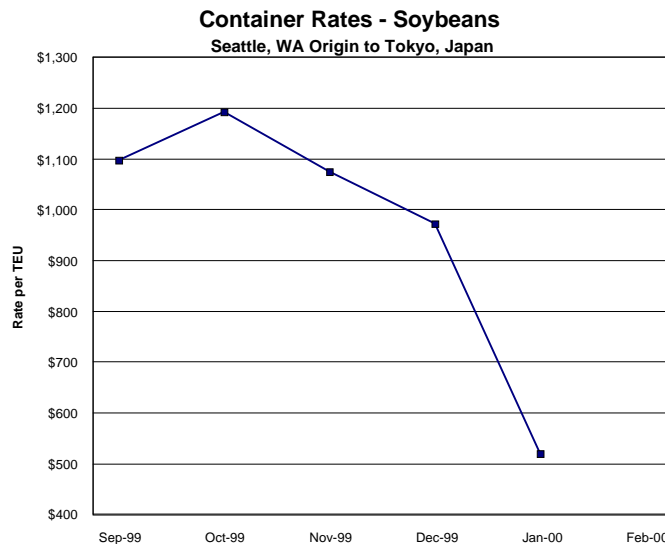
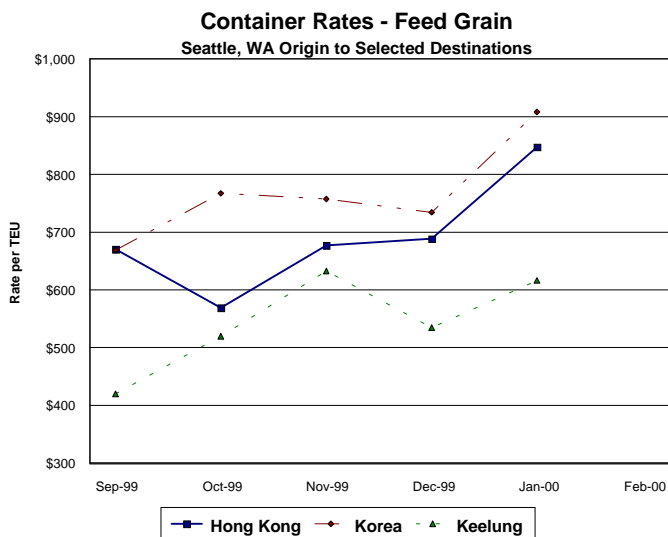
Port Region Ocean Grain Vessels

	Gulf			Pacific Northwest			Vancouver, B.C.		
	<u>In Port</u>	<u>Loaded 7-Days</u>	<u>Due Next 10-Days</u>	<u>In Port</u>	<u>Loaded 7-Days</u>	<u>Due Next 10-Days</u>	<u>In Port</u>	<u>Loaded 7-Days</u>	<u>Due Next 10-Days</u>
01/20/00	31	49	69	10			9	9	1
01/27/00	33	54	74	12			8	7	3
1999 Range	(14..47)	(39..65)	(34..80)	(6..18)			(2..20)	(2..15)	(0..9)
1998 Range	(19..62)	(34..64)	(40..93)				(1..19)	(3..14)	(0..10)
1999 Avg	32	52	65				9	9	3
1998 Avg	40	48	61				10	9	3
1997 Avg	33	45	58						

Source: Transportation & Marketing /AMS/ USDA

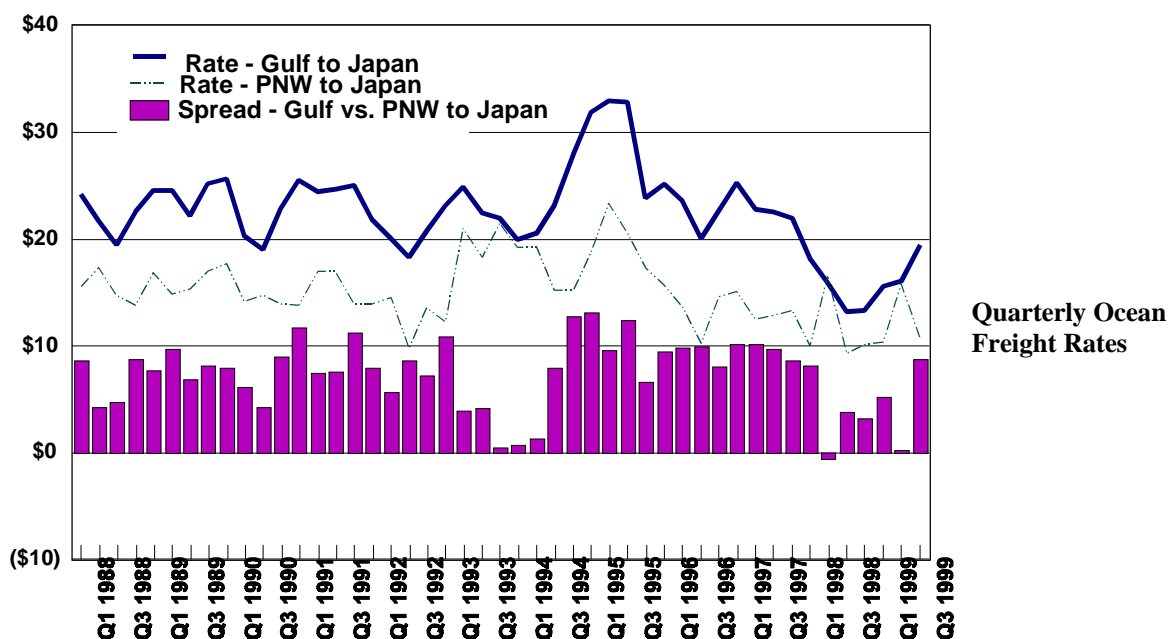
Container Ocean Freight Rates

Monthly Weighted Averages Based on Shipping Line Monthly Mkt. Share



Source: Transportation & Marketing/AMS/USDA

US\$/Metric Ton

**Quarterly Ocean Freight Rates**

Average Rates & Percentage Changes, U.S. Dollars/Metric Ton - Basis

	1999 3 rd Qtr	1998 3 rd Qtr	% Change		1999 3 rd Qtr	1998 3 rd Qtr	% Change
Gulf to				Pacific NW to			
Japan	\$19.46	\$13.17	48%	Japan	\$10.71	\$9.35	15%
Mexico	\$14.97	\$16.33	-8%	Red Sea/ Arabian Sea			
Venezuela	\$12.64	\$10.30	23%				
N. Europe	\$13.31	\$8.85	50%	Argentina to			
N. Africa	\$18.20	\$13.87	31%	N. Europe	\$13.94	\$12.15	15%
				Japan	\$23.00	\$16.21	42%

Source: Transportation & Marketing/AMS/USDA; (*) rates shown are for metric ton (2,250 lbs.=one metric ton)

Ocean Freight Rates *(Select Locations) - week ending 1/29/00

Export Region	Import Region	Grain	Month	Volume Loaded (Tons)	Freight Rate (\$/Ton)
Gulf	Europe	Heavy Grain	Prompt/Feb.	50,000/60,000	\$12.00
Gulf	Hamburg	Heavy Grain	Prompt	60,000	\$11.50
Gulf	Israel	Heavy Grain	February	35,000	\$14.00
Gulf	Egypt	Heavy Grain	Jan./Feb.	60,000	\$13.25/\$13.85
Gulf	Philippines	Meals	February	55,000	\$21.00
Gulf	Thailand	Heavy Grain	Prompt	55,000	\$22.00
Gulf	Japan	Heavy Grain	February	54,000	\$21.25-\$21.75
Paranagua	Europe	Grains	February	24,000	\$17.50
River Plate	Denmark	Grains	Spot	30,000	\$20.50
Hamburg	Saudi Red Sea	Barley	January/February	55,000	\$15.50

Source: Maritime Research Inc. (*) rates shown are for long ton (2,240 lbs.=one long ton), F.O.B., except where otherwise indicated.